

2SSB 5213 - S AMD 237

By Senators Brandland, Regala

ADOPTED 03/14/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

4 (1) Too many families with children in Washington are unable to
5 afford shelter, clothing, and other necessities of life; basic
6 necessities that are at the core of economic security and family
7 stability.

8 (2) Parents who lack resources for shelter, clothing, and
9 transportation are less likely to obtain employment or have the ability
10 to adequately provide for their children's physical and emotional well-
11 being and educational success.

12 (3) Washington's temporary assistance for needy families helps
13 financially struggling families find jobs, keep their jobs, get better
14 jobs, and build a better life for their children through the WorkFirst
15 program.

16 (4) Participation in the WorkFirst program through temporary
17 assistance for needy families is an important step towards self-
18 sufficiency and decreased long-term reliance on governmental
19 assistance.

20 (5) Removing this barrier to participation in temporary assistance
21 for needy families and WorkFirst will serve to strengthen families and
22 communities throughout the state.

23 (6) Preventing even one percent of these individuals from
24 reoffending by extending economic and employment opportunities will
25 result in law enforcement and correctional savings that substantially
26 exceed the cost of temporary assistance for needy families and
27 WorkFirst services.

28 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08.025 and 2004 c 54 s 5 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

1 (1) Public assistance may be awarded to any applicant:

2 (a) Who is in need and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements
3 of department assistance programs; and

4 (b) Who has not made a voluntary assignment of property or cash for
5 the purpose of qualifying for an assistance grant; and

6 (c) Who is not an inmate of a public institution except as a
7 patient in a medical institution or except as an inmate in a public
8 institution who could qualify for federal aid assistance: PROVIDED,
9 That the assistance paid by the department to recipients in nursing
10 homes, or receiving nursing home care, may cover the cost of clothing
11 and incidentals and general maintenance exclusive of medical care and
12 health services. The department may pay a grant to cover the cost of
13 clothing and personal incidentals in public or private medical
14 institutions and institutions for tuberculosis. The department shall
15 allow recipients in nursing homes to retain, in addition to the grant
16 to cover the cost of clothing and incidentals, wages received for work
17 as a part of a training or rehabilitative program designed to prepare
18 the recipient for less restrictive placement to the extent permitted
19 under Title XIX of the federal social security act.

20 (2) Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for
21 needy families under this title who has resided in the state of
22 Washington for fewer than twelve consecutive months immediately
23 preceding application for assistance is limited to the benefit level in
24 the state in which the person resided immediately before Washington,
25 using the eligibility rules and other definitions established under
26 this chapter, that was obtainable on the date of application in
27 Washington state, if the benefit level of the prior state is lower than
28 the level provided to similarly situated applicants in Washington
29 state. The benefit level under this subsection shall be in effect for
30 the first twelve months a recipient is on temporary assistance for
31 needy families in Washington state.

32 (3) Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for
33 needy families who is assessed through the state alcohol and substance
34 abuse program as drug or alcohol-dependent and requiring treatment to
35 become employable shall be required by the department to participate in
36 a drug or alcohol treatment program as a condition of benefit receipt.

37 (4) ~~((In order to be eligible for temporary assistance for needy~~
38 ~~families benefits, any applicant with a felony conviction after August~~

1 ~~21, 1996, involving drug use or possession, must: (a) Have been~~
2 ~~assessed as chemically dependent by a chemical dependency program~~
3 ~~approved under chapter 70.96A RCW and be participating in or have~~
4 ~~completed a coordinated rehabilitation plan consisting of chemical~~
5 ~~dependency treatment and vocational services; and (b) have not been~~
6 ~~convicted of a felony involving drug use or possession in the three~~
7 ~~years prior to the most current conviction.~~

8 (5)) Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 862a(d)(1), the department shall exempt
9 individuals from the eligibility restrictions of 21 U.S.C. 862a(a)(1)
10 and (2) to ensure eligibility for temporary assistance for needy
11 families benefits and federal food assistance.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act takes effect September 1, 2005."

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13 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "programs;" strike the
14 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 74.08.025; creating a
15 new section; and providing an effective date."

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